

## FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

### Photograph



### Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson  
community preservation + planning

**Organization:** Town of Hanson Historical  
Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): July 2018

Assessor's Number      USGS Quad      Area(s)      Form  
Number

92-0-15-1

Hanover

HNS.195

**Town/City:** Hanson

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):

**Address:** 58 East Washington Street

**Historic Name:** Thomas G. and Sarah Clark  
House

**Uses:** Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** Mid-Late Nineteenth  
Century

**Source:** White's History, Plan #3, Page 48

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

One-car garage/shed in southeast corner of the property and metal frame tended enclosures to the southwest of the house

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Addition to south façade (mid-20<sup>th</sup> century), vinyl replacement windows, and exterior chimney (ca. 1915)

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☐      yes ☒      **Date:**

ca. 1915

**Acreage:** .97 Acres

**Setting:** Located on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares adjacent to a small commercial center in an area of predominantly single-family homes ranging from early eighteenth century farmhouses to late twentieth century suburban development on large lots which includes grass lawns and numerous mature trees, bushes, and other vegetation.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

58

East Washington Street

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.195

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The one-and-a-half story cottage has an L-shaped footprint under an asphalt shingled, cross-gable roof and a small one-story, flat roofed addition on the south façade. The house has wood clapboard siding with corner boards. The gable-end roofs projects out slightly over the façades below with a wide band of wood molding at the eaves, painted wood soffits and a band of additional trim along the outer edges of the pediment. A slightly narrower band of wood molding is visible below the eaves on the gable facades and this detail wraps around each of the gable-ends to create small returns at the lower edges of the pediments. The simply detailed wood frames of the double hung windows are intact but the windows themselves have been replaced with vinyl double-hung windows which are six-over-one in design. The house has a narrow corbeled chimney that projects out of the roof ridge near the intersection of the cross gables, and a second exterior chimney at the center of the east gable-end. This chimney has a wide rectangular base which narrows on either side at the top of the first floor and a narrow corbeled top which projects through the trim at the top of the pediment.

The house faces north towards the street at the center of a long, looping gravel driveway. The narrow north façade is distinguished by its projecting gable-end which has a double hung window on each floor. A third window is located in the left corner of the first floor, and all three are flanked by wood shutters. The open end of the L is located in the southeast corner of the building and is filled by a low hip roofed entry porch. The roof projects out over a narrow wood cornice with solid arched panels located between the square posts below. A single arched opening is located on the narrow north façade of the porch with an unpainted wood railing with square baluster running between the outer post and wall. Two arched openings are located on the east façade. The first opening has a tall wood lattice board across its lower edge, while the southern opening is open with a set of cement steps leading to the driveway. Two double hung windows and the main entrance are located within the porch but their details are not visible from the street. The porch has a stone foundation which appears to match the rest of the foundation on the house.

The low hip roof of the entrance porch begins just below the eaves of the main roof and the wall above the sloping sides of the porch roof is painted wood board rather than clapboarded. The east façade gable-end is located behind the porch and has two windows on each floor to either side of the central chimney. In the southeast corner, a nearly flat roofed addition extends the east façade to the south. The flat roof projects out beyond the walls of the building with flat wood board eaves over three rectangular fixed windows. The rest of the wall is wood clapboard, and a corner of the small wood entry porch under a cantilevered flat roof is visible around the southeast corner of the building.

The west façade has a single double hung window on the side of the north façade's projecting gable end. The west façade gable-end has two double hung windows in the pediment over a large, square window set into a deep wood frame and the smaller awning style window to its right. Two large awning windows are also visible in the foundation below. Behind the gable-end, a second one-story addition extends the west façade to the south. Unlike the east façade, however, here the style of the roof is not visible.

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HANSON

58

East Washington Street

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HNS.195

The house is located on a long, flat, narrow lot and is set well back from the street behind an open grass lawn. The property is surrounded by mature trees and dense vegetation, with evergreen bushes surrounding the north façade and planting beds to the east and west. The part gravel/part dirt driveway extends around the house and the eastern end of the driveway has low cobblestone walls to either side with a wagon wheel at its southern end. A deteriorating one-car, gable roofed garage is located in the southeast corner of the property. A row of windows is visible on its north façade behind a row of trees and surrounding vegetation. To the right of the house, the metal and fabric frame of a temporary garage/storage shed is visible to the south of the house.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

According to White's History of Hanson, the existing house at 58 East Washington Street was built in 1803 by Cornelius Cobb, one of the first storekeepers in this section of town, who lived there with his family. This house was originally located at the corner of Willow Street (now Washington Street) and Spring Street until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when it was moved by Royal Mathews to its current location on East Washington Street. Cobb also built a store next door on Spring Street. Local Historian Allan Clemons has confirmed that the house has hand-hewn underpinnings. However, while elements of the house may date to 1803, its current form suggests that it was significantly reconstructed and its original design altered either when it was relocated in 1915 or at an earlier date in the mid-nineteenth century. As the proportions and style of the house are more typical of mid-nineteenth century construction, it is possible that the existing house dates to the ownership of T.G. Clark (1828-1880) or Joseph White (1881-1900).

Cornelius Cobb (1775 - 1833) was born in Hanson and married Betsey Cobb (née Thomas). They had three children: Theodore, Grace and Eliza, who married Elijah Cushing in 1831. Grace Cobb died at age 26 in 1832—a year before her father. Theodore married Sarah Harlow Perkins. According to the 1840 census, after Cornelius' death in 1833, Betsey moved in with Theodore and his family who lived nearby on Willow Street. The Cobb family are all buried at Fern Hill Cemetery. The Hanson Historical Society reports that Hanson's first post office operated out of Cobb's store in 1820.

In 1828, Thomas Gill Clark (1804-1881), a wheelwright, moved into the house with his wife, Sarah Howard Clark and their three children.<sup>1</sup> After Sarah's death in 1865, he married widow Chloe Murdock Stebbins and they had no children. In addition to the residence, Clark owned and operated the neighboring storefront at the corner of Willow and Spring Streets. The property was sold by Clark's heirs to Joseph White, a horse and carriage trader, in 1881.<sup>2</sup> In 1900, the original Cobb property was split into two parcels. On both the 1856 Walling Map of Hanson and 1879 Topographic Atlas of Plymouth County, the two buildings are shown as being on one parcel. White sold the portion of the property containing the 58 East Washington house to Charles H. Ramsdell, storekeeper, in 1900.<sup>3</sup> Ramsdell built a small store next to his home called the "Waiting Room," where customers could eat and smoke products while waiting for the Plymouth to Brockton Street Railway trolley which had just begun operations to Hanson. In a ca. 1900 photo of the store included in *Images of Hanson*, 58 East Washington can be seen to the right of the store. Charles H Ramsdell (1844-1903), originally of Saratoga NY, owned and operated the store for three years until his death in 1903. His widow, Caroline, sold the property to Helen Lathrop Marshall in 1906.<sup>4</sup> Three months later, Helen Lathrop Marshall sold the property to Hector Royal Mathews of Whitman, also known as Royal Mathews.<sup>5</sup> Royal Mathews received land on East Washington from Frank Cushing in 1915.

<sup>1</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 163, Page 109.

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 473, Pages 150-151.

<sup>3</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 796, Page 392.

<sup>4</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 930, Page 186.

<sup>5</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 940, Page 32.

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HANSON

58

East Washington Street

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	HNS.195
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Shortly after that date, Royal moved the house from Washington and Spring to its current location on East Washington Street.<sup>6</sup> The exterior brick chimney and porch may have been added to the house at this time.

Mathews sold this property to Alvin and Mary Bacon in 1917.<sup>7</sup> According to the 1920 Census, Alvin was a nailer at a box factory—a booming industry in Hanson during the early twentieth century. In 1924, Bacon sold the property to James B. and Clarice Beverly.<sup>8</sup> James died in 1929 and Clarice died six years later in 1935. After their deaths, their daughter, Bess, owned the property with her husband Henry Calkins until 1937 when they sold the property to Eugene and Margaret Johnson. According to the 1930 census, Henry was a coach operator on an electric railway. The Johnsons held the property for less than a year before losing it to foreclosure.<sup>9</sup> In 1939, Velpo and Clara Coffelt purchased the property from Campello Co-op Bank and lived there for five years.<sup>10</sup> In 1945, they sold the property to Charles E. and Ruth Boothe who lived there for a year before selling the property to Edward and Mary Harrigan.<sup>11</sup> In 1958, Harrigan sold the property to Frank M. Buckley who owned the property until his death in 2001.<sup>12</sup> Upon his death, the home transferred to his son, Thomas.<sup>13</sup> After Thomas' death in 2009, Amelia Anair and Mary Ann Drake purchased the land, selling it to its current owner, Dawn Kotapski, in 2016.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1213, Page 461-462.

<sup>7</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1282, Page 829.

<sup>8</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1462, Page 242.

<sup>9</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1733, Page 593-594; Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1754, Page 141.

<sup>10</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1762, Page 546.

<sup>11</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1885, Page 359; Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1911, Page 323-324.

<sup>12</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2641, Page 91.

<sup>13</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 20957, Page 290.

<sup>14</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 47544, Page 62.

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HANSON

58

East Washington Street

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Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.195

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